

6207INT_Y1

Dissertaion

Semester 1 - 2008

Academic Organisation:	School of Information and Communication Technology
Faculty:	Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology
Credit point value:	0
Student Contribution Band:	Band 2
Course level:	Undergraduate
Campus/Location/Learning Mode:	Gold Coast / On Campus / In Person
Convenor/s:	APro John Thornton (Gold Coast)
Enrolment Restrictions:	Restricted: Approval from Head of School
This document was last updated:	26 January 2008

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course requires the execution, analysis and presentation of the proposal submitted in the full year of the degree program with 10CP of work being undertaken in the first semester and 30CP of work in the second semester. This includes the presentation of a preliminary project proposal in semester 1 and the presentation of a dissertation in semester 2. Assessment also includes oral presentations in both semesters.

SECTION A – TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

COURSE AIMS

This subject prepares the student for a research or professional career through the development of an independent research project approaching research degree quality. The subject is core to the primary purpose of the Honours degree in providing a substantial introduction to research training. It equips the student with the opportunity and supervision to complete a self-contained research project related to the theory and/or practice of Information Technology and Multimedia. The subject gives students practice in the selection of a research topic, research project design, research method development, research conduct, critical evaluation of their own and other research results, reporting methods, results and conclusions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the first semester of this whole year subject, the students should:

- 1) develop a firm basis for their dissertation subject;
- 2) conduct a literature review in their intended area of research;
- 3) develop an outline and evaluate the methods they intend to use in their dissertation subject;
- 4) develop experience at writing literature reviews and giving oral presentations.

Upon successful completion of this subject in Semester II, students should:

- 5) complete a self contained research project in a particular field of Information Technology/Multimedia;
- 6) write and submit a thesis in accordance with the format set out by the Honours convenor or Head of School;

CONTENT, ORGANISATION AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Each student is required:

- ♦ *to select a project and a supervisor*

A synopsis of the project should be written in conjunction with the supervisor and approved by the Honours Coordinator/Head of School before the end of Week 2 of Semester I. It is not necessary that the title and the supervisor be the same as the one chosen when application was made to the Honours program. Students are encouraged to carefully search for projects and supervision.

- ♦ *to read and prepare a project proposal for their planned research.*

Following from the project synopsis the student must conduct the preliminary and necessary background reading to understand the full implications of the task, design a project proposal and report on the proposal and its planned execution.

- ♦ *defend the project proposal publicly (in Week 14 of Semester I).*

- ♦ *in consultation with their supervisor, to conduct the research project that was designed, reported and defended in Semester I.*

- ♦ *write a final report (dissertation or thesis).*

At the end of Semester II, prepare a detailed report on their research investigation. Such a report cannot be left to the last week and must be refined over at least a 4 week period prior to its submission.

- ♦ *defend the final report (dissertation or thesis) publicly.*

CONTENT SUMMARY

The final report (dissertation or thesis) should demonstrate:

1. a contribution to knowledge through research and/or synthesis of data/material applied in a novel domain;
2. evidence of the exercise of scholarly judgment and a substantial understanding of the research culture and methodology in the area of study;
3. written in such a way that it is clear what is intended: clear presentation, the contribution of the research work, its methodology and experimental results must be suitably organised and documented. Its application or synthesis in a practical or novel domain made understandable;
4. competence and independence - the candidate is demonstrating his/her preparation for a postgraduate degree or other independent research;
5. a critical understanding of technique and methods - the candidate must be able to justify and defend the use of the methods or the design employed in the conduct of the research;
6. critical use of published work and source materials - the candidate must demonstrate capacity to find and evaluate supporting literature and software.

Rationale for Content

The course content is designed to give students sufficient breadth and depth to develop an ability to analyze the literature, identify research problem(s) and methods to approach the research problems in the field of research. Further, it helps the students to develop clear thinking and skills to effectively write their research results.

Contact Summary

Students should meet for at least one hour each week with their Honours supervisor. At least nine hours independent research should be budgeted by the student in any given week.

ASSESSMENT

Summary of Assessment

Item	Assessment Task	Length	Weighting	Total Marks	Relevant Learning Outcomes	Due Day and Time
1.	Written project proposal	between 5,000 – 10,000 words	15%	15	1,2,3,4	Semester I, Friday Week 14, 4pm
2.	Oral presentation of the proposal	between 30-45 mins	(see below)		4	Semester I, during Week 14, 4pm
3.	Final oral presentation of project	between 30-45 mins	10%	10	4	Semester II, during Week 14, 4pm
4.	Thesis/Final Report	between 20,000-50,000 words	75%	75	5,6	Semester II, Friday Week 14, 4pm

Assessment Details

Individual weekly discussion with supervisor	30 hours
Preparation of presentations - Semester I - Semester II	8 hours 20 hours
Presentation Seminars - Proposal defence and seminar (Semester I) - Final seminar and defence (Semester II)	30-45 min 30-45 min
The Research - preliminary reading and research project design (Semester I) - continued library research and research project design, experimentation and/or implementation of research plan (Semester II)	80 hours 400 hours
Written reports - Proposal Report (Semester I) - Final Report (Semester II)	30 hours 130 hours

The due date for the project proposal in Semester I is Friday in Week 14 by 5.00pm. Clear, bound copies of the dissertation must be submitted to the Honours Convenor/School Secretary by the due date. The number of copies shall be equal to the number of supervisors plus one.

The due date for submission of the final thesis or dissertation shall be Friday, Week 14 by 5.00pm. Clear, bound copies of the dissertation must be submitted to the Honours Convenor/School Secretary by the due date. The number of copies shall be equal to the number of examiners plus the number of supervisors plus one.

All requests for an extension of the submission dates for the proposal, seminars or final thesis must be made, **in writing**, before the original submission date, to the Honours Convenor and must be accompanied by a statement from the supervisor(s) and supporting documentary evidence. Neither the supervisor(s) nor any member of the Faculty can grant an extension. Such requests are the province of the University Honours Assessment Board (UHAB).

Medical reasons are the most likely grounds on which an extension will be granted. Honours projects should be designed so that they can be completed within the specified time period. University policy provides for the mandatory award of a mark of Fail for a dissertation submitted after the due date and for which no extension of time has been approved.

An Honours project has two components: First, *conduct of the project* (25%) that includes a written proposal and an oral presentation of the proposed research at the end of the semester I, and a public seminar, after completion of the project, at the end of semester II.

The 25% conduct of project mark is divided into two components: the principle supervisor will be responsible for assessing the first 15% component, in consultation with any associate or co-supervisors. The mark for this component should be strongly based on the written and oral project proposal delivered in semester 1, but should also consider how the project progressed throughout the year, the nature of the problem, and the apparent efforts and difficulties faced by the student.

The principle supervisor and one or both of the independent examiners will be responsible for assessing the second 10% final seminar component. The principle supervisor's mark will count for half of this 10% (i.e. 5%) and the second 5% will be an average of the independent examiner's marks (if more than one attends). In the event that both independent examiners are unable to attend the seminar then the second part of the seminar mark will be assessed by the Honours's convenor.

In addition, the Honours convenor may intervene in the marking of this aspect of the project, if requested by the student and/or supervisor(s)

The second component of the Honours project is a *dissertation* or *thesis* (75%). Two examiners appointed by the Chair of Faculty Assessment Board will examine each dissertation independently. One of the examiners is expected to be a member of the academic staff of the School but not the supervisor of the student. A second examiner may be from another Faculty of the University, another tertiary institution, or an external organisation where the Chair of Faculty Assessment Board, based on recommendation from the supervisor considers that the proposed examiner has the appropriate skills and expertise.

The standards of marking for the dissertation will be those customary within Australian Universities.

The identity of the examiners will not normally be disclosed to students. Each examiner will be asked to indicate on the Examiners' Report which comments, if any, can be released to the student. The release of comments will be encouraged to provide feedback to students.

Return of Assessment Items

Students should contact their supervisors in relation to the return of assessment items.

Notification of Availability of Feedback on Assessment

Students should contact their supervisor or the School Administration Officer in relation to feedback from examiners.

GRADUATE SKILLS

Graduate Skills	Taught	Practised	Assessed
Effective communication (written)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective communication (oral)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective communication (interpersonal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Problem solving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Critical evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Work autonomously	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Work in teams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creativity and innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ethical behaviour in social / professional / work environments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responsible, effective citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TEACHING TEAM

Course Convenor

Convenor Details	Gold Coast
Campus Convenor	John Thornton
Email	j.thornton@griffith.edu.au
Office Location	G07 1.52
Phone	28730
Fax	28066
Consultation times	See office door

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS

- Students may communicate with the convenor face-to-face by appointment or via email if the student is unable to be on campus.
- If there is any problem with supervision, students must communicate to the convenor as soon as possible.

TEXTS AND SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Articles from journals and advanced text-books will be supplied by the respective supervisors for honours dissertations.

It is assumed that students will need to make extensive use of the University Library and other sources of information.

SECTION B – ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

- To be eligible to pass the course, students are required to complete all forms of assessment and must demonstrate a reasonable degree of competence in the required course objectives as examined in each form of assessment.
- Non-submission of a piece of assessment will incur a fail grade for the course.
- Students may work together with permission of the course convenor in researching their assignments but final submissions must reflect the work and original contribution of each individual student.
- Any dishonest assignments will be dealt with under the rules applying in "The Process of Assessment, Grading and Dissemination of Results" and Statute 8.2 - Student Good Order as defined in the University Calendar.
- Full and detailed acknowledgment (e.g. notation, and/or bibliography) must be provided if contributions are drawn from the literature in preparation of reports and assignments.
- All submissions for assessment must be word-processed using standard software such as MS word, latex, frames, etc.
- Student must be able to produce a copy of all work submitted if so requested.
- Assignments **MUST** be submitted by the due date and time. Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances by "Application for Extension" and **MUST** be made **BEFORE** the due date. Extension Application Forms are available from the Administration Office of the Faculty. Before an extension will be granted a review of the work completed to date **MUST** be undertaken with the Course Convenor.

Students should also refer to the Learning@Griffith website for further information about this course.

SECTION C – KEY UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students must conduct their studies at the University honestly, ethically and in accordance with accepted standards of academic conduct. Any form of academic conduct that is contrary to these standards is academic misconduct and is unacceptable.

Some students engage deliberately in academic misconduct, with intent to deceive. This conscious, pre-mediated form of cheating is one of the worst forms of fraudulent academic behaviour, for which the University has zero tolerance and for which penalties, including exclusion from the University, will be applied.

However the University recognises many students commit academic misconduct without intent to deceive. These students may be required to undertake additional educational activities to remediate their behaviour.

Specifically it is academic misconduct for a student to:

- **Cheat in examinations and tests** by communicating, or attempting to communicate, with a fellow individual who is neither an invigilator or member of staff; by copying, or attempting to copy from a fellow candidate; attempting to introduce or consult during the examination, any unauthorised printed or written material, or electronic calculating or information storage device; or mobile phones or other communication device, or impersonates another.
- **Fabricate results** by claiming to have carried out tests, experiments or observations that have not taken place or by presenting results not supported by the evidence with the object of obtaining an unfair advantage.
- **Misrepresent themselves** by presenting an untrue statement or not disclosing where there is a duty to disclose in order to create a false appearance or identity.
- **Plagiarise** by representing the work of another as their own original work, without appropriate acknowledgement of the author or the source. This category of cheating includes the following:
 1. collusion, where a piece of work prepared by a group is represented as if it were the student's own;
 2. acquiring or commissioning a piece of work, which is not his/her own and representing it as if it were, by
 - purchasing a paper from a commercial service, including internet sites, whether pre-written or specially prepared for the student concerned
 - submitting a paper written by another person, either by a fellow student or a person who is not a member of the University;
 3. duplication of the same or almost identical work for more than one assessment item;
 4. copying ideas, concepts, research data, images, sounds or text;
 5. paraphrasing a paper from a source text, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, without appropriate acknowledgement;
 6. cutting or pasting statements from multiple sources or piecing together work of others and representing them as original work;
 7. submitting, as one own work, all or part of another student's work, even with the student's knowledge or consent.

A student who willingly assists another student to plagiarise (for example by willingly giving them their own work to copy from) is also breaching academic integrity, and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Visit the University's Institutional Framework for Promoting Academic Integrity Among Students for further details.

PLAGIARISM DETECTION SOFTWARE

From semester 2, 2007 the University has been piloting the use of plagiarism detection software. Students should be aware that your Course Convenor may use this software to check submitted assignments. If this course is included in the pilot your Course Convenor will provide more detailed information about how the detection software will be used.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Griffith University is committed to providing a safe work and study environment, however all students, staff and visitors have an obligation to ensure the safety of themselves and those whose safety may be affected by their actions. Staff in control of learning activities will ensure as far as reasonably practical, that those activities are safe and that all safety obligations are being met. Students are required to comply with all safety instructions and are requested to report safety concerns to the University.

General health and safety information can be obtained from http://www.griffith.edu.au/hrm/health_and_safety/

Information about Laboratory safety can be obtained from http://www.griffith.edu.au/ots/secure/health/content_labsafety.html

KEY STUDENT-RELATED POLICIES

All University policy documents are accessible to students via the University's Policy Library website at: www.griffith.edu.au/policylibrary. Links to key policy documents are included below for easy reference:

[Student Charter](#)

[Academic Standing, Progression and Exclusion Policy](#)

[Student Administration Policy](#)

[Policy on Student Grievances and Appeals](#)

[Assessment Policy](#)

[Examinations Timetabling Policy and Procedures](#)

[Academic Calendar](#)

[Guideline on Student E-Mail](#)

[Health and Safety Policy](#)

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT RESOURCES

The University provides many facilities and support services to assist students in their studies. Links to information about University support resources available to students are included below for easy reference:

[Learning Centres](#) - the University provides access to common use computing facilities for educational purposes. For details visit www.griffith.edu.au/cuse

[Learning@Griffith](#) - there is a dedicated website for this course via the Learning@Griffith student portal.

[Student Services](#) facilitate student access to and success at their academic studies. Student Services includes: Careers and Employment Service; Chaplaincy; Counselling Service; Health Service; Student Equity Services (incorporating the Disabilities Service); and the Welfare Office.

[Learning Services](#) within the Division of Information Services provides learning support in three skill areas: computing skills; library skills; and academic skills. The study skills resources on the website include self-help tasks focusing on critical thinking, exam skills, note taking, preparing presentations, referencing, writing, proof reading, and time management.
